

# Old video game in the news...

Yes, that's right the old video game of [Pong](#), OK, actually it was the first video game, [not quite Pong](#).

I'm old enough to remember the first Pong games in the city of Toledo. There was one located in the entry of a K-mart store. At least I think it was a K-Mart. I remember the game, not really the store local. 1 quarter allowed you to play the game. My older brother would let me play it on his cash. Well, he was 12 years older and had a job, I was around 12 when they first came out. I remember those few games with my brother. I looked up to him, and he had time for a jerky little kid.

Fast forward a few years, and there were video arcades, games in bars, and of course home game systems. They all really started because of Pong. If you read the links, you will have found out that Pong was not the first video game. It was the first game to really take the home market. The same game you had to pay a quarter for, you could play for free at home whenever you wanted.

Back in the 80's there was PacMan, Ms PacMan, DigDug, Q\*bert, Centipede and many others. These also came to the home market. Soon the home market was bigger than the Arcade business, so much so that you are hard pressed to find any independent arcades anymore. There are some arcades in a few restaurants, or in Family activity centers that deal with things you just can't fit in your home. Me I grew up in the age of the arcade. There was an arcade in almost every mall. There were arcades set out by themselves or in strip malls. Turn a corner and you could find a place to play a video game. I liked these games, and was very good at a few of them.

Then came the home consoles. I never did get the hang of those games. Quirky joy sticks that didn't work quite the same as the arcade. No heavy duty track balls. No big red firing

buttons. Then the games started to use game pads. Tiny buttons that you had to know exactly which one to push and when. Nope, never got into those. At first I said it was because the graphics were so poor on the home games, then of course it was the poor joy sticks. But of course the graphics got better than anything we saw in the arcades, but the interface was still not quite right.

A reader of this blog, and a friend pointed the way to arcade style controls in his [blog](#). It would be interesting to have my own arcade style game, but for me not really needed. I have enough to fill my time right now, I don't need to add an additional hobby. Sounds like fun, if someone wants to invite me to play on their home arcade, well I'd be willing to give it a whirl, but I won't be putting in my own. Has to be someone with lots of room though. Those arcade games can take up a bit of space...

Does anyone remember the old Atari game console? What were your favorites? I found a list [here](#). My favorite, was Pong at the arcade machine with my brother...

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## Williams County Murders

The other night some friends and I had a conversation about local murders that have taken place in our county. Because we are a rural county, murders here are few and far between. A resident city council member who is also a local historian gives a yearly presentation, usually on Halloween, detailing the murders in Williams County, Ohio. Because many people know everyone else, he doesn't cover anything past the 1950's, but I was able to find some information on my own. For the incidents that did take place a long time ago, many of the

circumstances are interesting as they reflect the moods and cultural attitudes of times past. Being both a researcher of local history and a true crime buff, I've attended several of these presentations and decided to share the notes I've taken for those who are interested:

### Williams County Murders

6/20/1847 – W. Unity – David Schamp murdered by Andrew F. Tyler and Daniel Heckerthorne. Buried in German cemetery on Cty Rd. K. Botched ransom kidnapping – family farm is 1/2 mi. W of US127. 4 pg article in Bryan Times on 150th anniversary. In 1939, Ralph Gall wrote several articles in Inside Detective Magazine (June, July, Aug) about the crime.

3/23/1865 – Bryan – Conrad Rutman murdered by unknown – found hung in outhouse

12/1/1868 – West Jefferson – Unknown female infant by unknown

12/3/1873 – Bryan – Peter Himes by Ben Evarts

4/8/1875 – Bryan N. Main St. – unknown infant found in cigar box just N of RR trks

5/17/1877 – Denmark – unknown male infant

2/21/1878 – Bryan – unknown male infant

7/25/1878 – W Unity – Infant Loveless by mother, Lucy Loveless. Father of infant was mother's brother in law.

4/7/1880 – Edgerton – Unknown f infant

6/3/1880 – Edgerton – James Marshall by unknown

9/11/1880 – Bryan, dwntrwn, N side of square – John Burchell, Jr. by William Everett – gut cut in fight

5/2/1883 – Melbern – Jacob Nihart killed with ax by mentally ill wife, Saloma Nihart. Both buried in Brown cemetery.

7/21/1889 – Edgerton – Sarah Hoadley (71) and Christian Newman (72) by Hiram Hoadley, Jr. (45). Murder / Suicide – in process of divorce, didn't want to pay \$2,000. Divorce announcement in same issue of newspaper as the murders.

8/26/1891 – Montpelier – Milton Hogue by Perry Yoder

1/11/1892 – W. Unity – Infant Hayes – female, by Dr. Frank O. Hart

2/20/1892 – Bryan, SW corner of Beech and High. Tom Murphy age 63 by unknown

5/4/1892 – Bryan. Alley next to Christmas Manor went thru to High St. before Central School building was there. Arthur Brown, about 22 yrs old, was at a saloon bragging about having a lot of money. He was murdered by George and Michael Burchell, Walter Plummer, and William Elkins. Witnessed by little girl from window of her house on W Butler. Story featured in “Native Sons Gone Wrong” booklet. Victim buried in Old Pulaski cemetery across from Winery.

5/8/1898 – Florence – Unknown Male infant

7/2/1904 – Bryan, just N of overpass. Noah Schartzler shot by unknown. Buried in Brown cemetery. Case of mistaken identity. Stopped and checked every train between S Bend and Toledo.

6/7/1905 – Montpelier – unknown infant

9/21/1905 – Montpelier, E of Bryan on RR trks – August Julius by unknown

2/7/1914 – Bryan, W side of Portland St. 2nd blk. Portland and Mulberry – murder/suicide – Blanche Stauffer by Charles Stauffer. 12 pg suicide letter – “She was a hard person to live with.”

11/10/1914 – Pioneer – Joe Varada by Joe Dohon. argument over wheelbarrow, shovel over head, both Hungarians.

3/14/16 – W. Unity – Mrs. Andre by Wilson Andre

6/12/18 – Montpelier – Alex Grant by James Morgan. Morgan (Afrcn/Amer.) wanted to get from Chicago to Detroit, didn’t have any \$, so he hid in the btrm on a train where Grant was conductor. Morgan was executed in Columbus, picture from OH Dept. of Prisons

9/29/27 – Montpelier – James Andrews (Afrcn/Amer.) by unknown

12/11/27 – Stryker – Celina Huber by Camiel Clark who was fined \$125 for liquor violations. Huber, age 39, was cut during fight, went to lay down, bled to death.

1/4/32 – Bryan – Fred Wonser, Jr. and Margaret Wonser by Lewis Wonser

12/28/36 – Bryan – Frank Lewis by William White

12/1/38 - Edgerton - Vern Eck, age 42 by Nona Goeltzenluchter. Murder-suicide. Having an affair, though both married to other people. She was accusing him of seeing yet another woman.

6/14/45 - Pioneer - Murder/Suicide. Mary Jane, Earl, Alice May, Betty Lou, Alva Stoner by their father, Alfred Stoner, age 38, just gotten back from WWII, distant cousin of Mark Kelly (murders in Wms Cty speaker). Drove himself and kids into gravel pit S of Pioneer while wife was in hospital giving birth to baby 6. Over 1,000 people showed up to watch the search for the bodies.

9/19/46 - Bryan - Emily Abernathy, age 30 by James Engle, age 21. Jim was drinking a coke across the street at the bowling alley when the body of his victim was found in the library - rumor has it he watched them secure the crime scene as he was sipping his coke. She had been strangled, beaten, and cut with a pen knife, died from strangulation. Jim confessed - said he wanted to see what it was like to kill someone. Paroled in 1974, moved to Bryan in 1989, currently resides in local nursing home. Crime was chronicled in tv show "The Big Story", but the show upset Bryanites.

5/5/1948 - Bryan - John (age 56) and Pearl (age 63) Gabriel by Ervin "Bud" Ingle, age 14, "King of 8th grade". They were his neighbors, and he wanted to borrow their car. There is a rumor that Mrs. Gabriel liked young boys, and John did the killing. Years later, Bud was a chauffer for the governor, and the governor thought highly of him and wrote a book. There was a photo of Pearl's body in the newspaper.

1/2/50 - Edgerton - Helen Bigger by Vernon O. Bigger - father in law of victim, possible molestation.

5/5/50 - Melbern - George and Evalina Fisher by their grandson, Jack Hartman.

9/12/51 - West Unity - Celia Walters by Edwin Walters

8/18/59 - Pioneer - James W. Elliott by unknown

9/11/59 - Blakeslee - William Bigger by Harold H. Bostater

12/29/61 - Blakeslee - Howard Tanner by Ned Eugene Tanner

8/18/63 - Montpelier - Dean Allen Nichols by David W. Nichols

6/22/64 – Pioneer – Dr. William Crall by Frank Patalon  
5/21/66 – Montpelier – John McCamis by Raymond Burgess  
8/31/68 – Stryker – Eben Henry Harney by William O. Bolster  
10/12/71 – Stryker – John F. Meisner by Thomas E. Elliott  
9/30/72 – Stryker – Judi Hagerman by Jon Garber  
4/28/76 – Edgerton – Deborah Unger by Jeffrey Ailiff  
3/15/77 – Bryan – Danny Hanisko by Lawrence E. Finn  
6/19/90 – West Unity – Genieve Willene and Orlo E. Ansley by  
William Ansley  
2/2/91 – Montpelier – Travis Pospeshil by Timothy Kelley.  
Invol. mansltr. released from prison 9/11/06  
2/7/92 – Montpelier – Torilyn Contreras by Jonathon Leggett –  
Invol. Mansltr.  
9/30/96 – Melbern – Brenda Sue Kafai by Rocky W. Kafai –  
invol. mansltr. released 9/23/06  
2/15/98 – Edgerton – Beth Garber by Shane Frisbie  
12/6/98 – Edgerton – Terri D. Swearengin by William M.  
Swearengin  
12/7/00 – Holiday City – Mary Kosier by Jason Crawford and  
James Jones Jr. – they kidnapped Mary who was an employee of  
Econolodge near toll road for robbery, killed her near covered  
bridge  
6/30/01 – Bryan – Thomas G. Flint by Linda Ames (\*\*NOTE\*\* – a  
reader left a comment below containing additional info about  
this event. I have not verified the source and am still in  
the process of research)

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## **The REAL Bambi and Thumper**

I'll admit I got these super-cute animal pictures from an email foward... they are just too cute... The skeptic in me says, are they real? I looked on snopes.com and didn't see anything, but in this age of photoshop, you never know. If

they are photoshopped, the creator did an excellent job... Let's pretend they're real and that these animal buddies have such a wonderful friendship that it spanned at least 2 seasons as the pictures suggest – they're too cute not to believe it!



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# Optical Illusion Personality Test

This is pretty cool. Watch the video and figure out which way the lady is spinning. According to the video, if you see the lady spinning to the right, your right brain dominates and your thinking is black and white and fact-based. If you see her spinning to the left, you are more creative and open to seeing “gray” areas. Even if the personality assessment part is a bit off, the illusion is still cool to see. Check it out:

Sounds simple, but for some people she keeps changing direction. I saw her spinning counter-clockwise; I guess that would be considered left, but I could force myself to see her spinning in the other direction if I tried – weird! Once you've established which direction you see her spinning, try to get your brain and eyes to switch it on you if you can!

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## **I Am SpongeBob, Married To A SpongeBob**

Yet another email forward struck my fancy... this one's a personality test to determine which cartoon character you're most like. With 29 points, I am SpongeBob SquarePants, and my husband got 31 points, so he is also SpongeBob. Not sure how truthful this is, but fun to take the little quiz. I know, I should get a life... but what about the person who sat and mapped out this whole personality test?

This is fun.

Everyone has a personality of a cartoon character. Have you ever asked yourself what cartoon character you most resemble? A group of investigators got together and analyze the personalities of well known and modern cartoon characters. The information that was gathered was made into this test.

Answer all the questions (only 10) with what describes you best, add up all your points (which are next to the answer that you choose) at the end and look for your results.

Do not cheat by looking at the end of the e-mail before you are done .

Then forward this to all your friends (including the person who sent it to you) and change the subject of this message to what character is you.

1. Which one of the following describes the perfect date?

- a) Candlelight dinner (4 pts.)
- b) Fun/Theme Park (2 pts.)
- c) Painting in the park (5 pts)
- d) Rock concert (1 pt.)
- e) Going to the movies (3 pts.)

2. What is your favorite type of music?

- a) Rock and Roll (2 pts.)
- b) Alternative (1 pt.)
- c) Soft Rock (4 pts.)
- d) Country (5 pts )
- e)Pop (3 pts.)

3. What type of movies do you prefer?

- a) Comedy (2 pts.)
- b) Horror (1 pt.)
- c) Musical (3 pts.)
- d) Romance (4 pts.)
- e) Documentary (5 pts.)

4. Which of these occupations would you choose if you only could pick one?

- a) Waiter (4 pts.)
- b) Professional Sports Player (5 pts.)
- c) Teacher (3 pts.)
- d) Police (2 pts.)
- e) Cashier (1 pt.)

5. What do you do with your spare time?

- a) Exercise (5 pts.)
- b) Read (4 pts.)
- c) Watch television (2 pts.)
- d) Listen to music (1 pt.)
- e) Sleep (3 pts.)

6. Which one of the following colors do you like best?

- a) Yellow (1 pt.)
- b) White (5 pts.)
- c) Sky Blue (3 pts)
- d) Dark Blue(2 pts.)
- e) Red (4 pts.)

7. What do you prefer to eat?

- a) Snow (3 pts.)
- b) Pizza (2 pts.)
- c) Sushi (1 pt.)
- d) Pasta (4 pts.)
- e) Salad (5 pts.)

8. What is your favorite holiday ?

- a) Halloween (1 pt.)
- b) Christmas (3 pts.)
- c) New Year's (2 pts.)
- d) Valentine's Day(4 pts.)
- e) Thanksgiving (5 pts.)

9. If you could go to one of these places, which would it be?

- a) Paris (4 pts.)
- b) Spain (5 pts.)
- c) Las Vegas (1 pt.)
- d) Hawaii (4 pts.)
- e) Hollywood (3 pts)

10. Which of the following people would you prefer to spend time with?

- a) Someone smart (5 pts.)
- b) Someone attractive (2 pts.)
- c) Someone who likes to Party (1 pt.)
- d) Someone who always has fun (3 pts.)
- e) Someone very sentimental (4 pts.)

Now add up your points and find the answer you have been

waiting for! Put your cartoon character's name in the subject line and forward it to your friends and back to the person that sent this to you.

(10-16 points) You are Garfield:

You are very comfortable, easy going , and you definitely know how to have fun but sometimes you take it to an extreme. You always know what you are doing and you are always in control of your life. Others may not see things as you do, but that doesn't mean that you always have to do what is right. Try to remember, your happy spirit may hurt you or others.

(17-23 points) You are Snoopy:

You are fun; you are very cool and popular. You always know what's in and you're never out of style, you are good at knowing how to satisfy everyone else. You have probably disappeared for a few days more than once, but you always come home with the family values that you learned. Being married and having children are important to you, but only after you have had your share of fun times.

(24-28 points) You are Elmo:

You have lots of friends and are popular, always willing to give advice and help out a person in need. You are very optimistic and always see the bright side of things. Some good advice: try not to be too much of a dreamer. Dreaming too big could cause many conflicts in your life.

(29-35 points) You are Sponge Bob Square Pants. You are the classic person everyone loves. You are the best friend that anyone could ever have and never wants to lose. You never cause harm to anyone and they would never not understand your feelings. Life is a journey, it's funny and calm for the most part. Stay away from traitors and jealous people and you will be stress free.

(36-43 points) You are Charlie Brown:

You are tender, you fall in love quickly but you are also very serious about all relationships. You are a family person. You

call your Mom every Sunday. You have many friends and may occasionally forget a few birthdays. Don't let your passion confuse you with reality.

(44-50 points ) You are Dexter:

You are smart and definitely a thinker. Every situation is fronted with a plan. You have a brilliant mind. You demonstrate very strong family principles. You maintain a stable routine but never ignore a bad situation when it comes. Try to do less over thinking every once in a while to spice things up a bit with spontaneity.

Now don't spoil it! Have some fun! Change the subject of the e-mail to the name of your cartoon character and send it on.

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## **It's only a dream...**

Boy did I have a strange dream last night. Normally, I don't remember them, but this one was long, involved and memorable.

\*\*\*\*\* Dream cloud surrounding the following narrative.  
Comments are in italics \*\*\*\*\*

I was sitting on the porch of my house and a mid-sized red car comes up the drive. A lady I knew stepped out of the car and asked if I wanted to go someplace with her. She was very sorry for coming out to the house without calling, but really wanted male a companionship for this outing. I was more than willing to go, since I was thinking of asking this lady out for some time. I hadn't been asked out much during my life, and I liked the feeling...

*In reality, I have no idea who this woman was and the house porch I was sitting on was my parents' house, and it was sold to my new neighbor almost 5 years ago. Yes, I do like the*

*feeling of being asked out.*

Before I could even step into the house to get my wallet and keys, a LifeFlight helicopter was landing in the front yard. Now I had no idea why they were coming here, and the life flight nurse was sure that this was the place to pick up the an emergency patient. I tried to explain that the only two people there were the two they saw now. Then a school bus comes barreling through the woods, not on the road, but right through the woods, and over the swamp. This is when I told the LifeFlight crew that this must be the person/people they were waiting for. While talking to the crew, the school bus turned into a tanker truck. Helping the people out of the tanker and unto the copter took so much time that my date and I were too late to go to her function. So we made plans to get together at a later date.

*Ok, this just happened very quickly in the dream. The lady in question (I sure wish I would have had a name associated with this dream.) The next section of the dream occurred in the blink of an eye.*

I was sitting at a table of a park lodge with the lady of my dreams (*I like the way that sounds!*) and someone fell off a speed boat on the lake in view from the lodge. Leaving my date behind I run and swim out to rescue the person. Coming back into the lodge, I ran into my father-in-law. He was giving me a thumbs up sign on my date. I then went into a restroom (straight out of a Harry Potter Movie) to change my wet clothes. My brother-in-law came into the restroom to make sure I put on the suit he brought me. He wanted to make sure I was ready for the wedding. What wedding, I was here on a date?? Anyway, I get dressed and step out of the restroom to tell my date about the wedding. Instead of finding my date, I find my late wife. She said "Hurry up, we can't miss this wedding." I'm going, "Wait, you aren't supposed to be here, you died years ago." She said, "I know that silly, I just couldn't miss this wedding. Come on, let's go." I said I had to explain it

to my date. My wife said that this was already taken care of. Me, I'm wondering how she took that.

The gorilla ushers took my bag (*where did that come from?*) and we took our seats. The wedding was over before it even began *Yes, this was surreal. Even in the dream it had a feeling of weirdness. I'm not sure who the wedding was for, but all but 1 daughter was in the dream.*

After the wedding, my dear wife said she had to be going. I wanted her to wait, but her time was at an end. Then I went looking for my bag. (*Why not the date?*) I couldn't find the gorilla who took it. In fact I couldn't find any of the gorillas. The girl at the lobby desk told me she would go through the security tapes to find the gorilla that took my bag. I was watching it with her and saw the part where I came out of the restroom. I saw me talking, but I was talking to nobody. My wife was not in the video. Then I remember my date. Did she know why I was gone, did I ruin another date? I find my date, and she was still waiting for me. I told I was sorry for being gone so long, and she said it was no problem. She had a nice talk with some lady who told me I had to be at a wedding at the lodge. She was told I was surprised and didn't know about the wedding. Hmm, how did that work out. She then said a gorilla gave her my bag.

\*\*\*\*\* Here the dream ends.... \*\*\*\*\*

I'm not what was going on in this dream, but after telling it to my youngest, she reminded me of a dream I had a bit ago. In that dream I had a date with a raven haired psychic. This lady in my dreams, also had raven hair, but I don't recall the face of either lady. Hmm.... But then again, I've always liked dark haired women. Just a weird dream I remembered today.

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# Do You Know The #1 Song The Day You Were Born?

I have a few drafts of blog posts started, but I haven't really felt like writing lately – too much effort when my mind is so preoccupied. Then I got this fun forward in my email and thought it would make a good blog post. Little effort on my part, which is great because I'm so tired from not being able to sleep. And it is actually a pretty fun forward; I looked it up for each of my kids and put them at the bottom of the list – enjoy:

THIS IS REALLY FUN!

Do you know the #1 song the day you were born?

Go

here

[Http://www.joshhosler.biz/NumberOneInHistory/SelectMonth.htm](http://www.joshhosler.biz/NumberOneInHistory/SelectMonth.htm)

Put the name of the song below and keep it going!